

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1-9 are now pending. Claims 10-12 have been canceled.

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 121, the Examiner has entered a Restriction Requirement as follows:

Group I – Claims 1-9 directed to methods for determining or controlling coolant quality of a fuel cell system; and

Group II – Claims 10-12 directed to an apparatus for monitoring coolant quality of a fuel cell system.

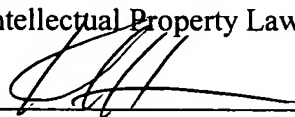
Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, Group I – that is, claims 1-9 – for continued prosecution within this application. Consistent with this election, Applicants have canceled claims 10-12 without prejudice to pursuing the same in a corresponding divisional application.

In addition, the Examiner has further required Applicants to elect a single disclosed species for purpose of initial examination should Group I be elected. To that end, the Examiner considers claims 1-4 and claims 5-9 to be directed to patentably distinct species. For purpose of initial examination only, Applicants hereby elect the species of claims 1-4 - that is, “species I-1” as designated by the Examiner in the Office Action. Claim 1 is generic to this species, and claims 2-4 read thereon. Should the Examiner consider claims 1-4 to constitute patentable subject matter, the Examiner is respectfully requested to examine claims 5-9 within the context of this application.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, allowance of claims 1-9 is respectfully requested.

A good faith effort has been made to place this application in condition for allowance. However, should any further issue require attention prior to allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (206) 622-4900 to resolve the same.

Respectfully submitted,  
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